

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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53

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

INSE-00 /016 W

----- 024582

R 210427Z OCT 76

FM AMCONSUL UDORN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8305

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L UDORN 6323

FOR: D/HA/ORM

INS/CO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, LA

SUBJECT: LAO REFUGEE CAT II SOMBOUN PHOMMAVONG, FAMILY OF ONE,
"OLD PROGRAM"

REF: A. VIENTIANE 1562 B.203?ORN 5436 C. VIENTIANE 1575

1. IN ORDER TO DETERMINE IF SUBJECT QUALIFIES FOR PAROLE AS REFUGEE, A SUMMARY OF HIS CASE IS PRESENTED TO YOU FOR EVALUATION. NORMAL INS POLICY STATES THAT A PERSON CANNOT BE A REFUGEE WHILE IN HIS COUNTRY OF BIRTH.
2. REF A AUTHORIZED USE OF ONE NUMBER FROM LAOS SPECIAL QUOTA FOR SUBJECT. REF B IS POST CABLE TO VIENTIANE STATING THAT SUBJECT PLACE OF BIRTH WAS NONGKHAI,##-8)-,\$-,\$ #- \$ MOVED TO LAOS AT AGE OF SEVEN (CORRECTION IN AGE) WHERE HE OBTAINED A LAO BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND ID CARD. REQUEST EMBASSY TO WITHDRAW AUTHORIZATION GRANTED PER REF A.
3. A. REF C IS VIENTIANE'S REPLY STATING THAT SUBJECT WAS LISTED IN EMBASSY'S PERSONNEL RECORDS AS LAO CITIZEN. HE HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR SPECIAL QUOTA NUMBER BECAUSE HIS WORK ENTAILED
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DEALING FOR EMBASSY WITH LAO POLICE, CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION

OFFICIALS. SOMBOUN'S PERSONNEL RECORDS, DATING BACK TO 1971, WHEN HE WAS HIRED BY USAID, SHOWS THAT HE CLAIMED VIENTIANE, LAOS. AS HIS PLACE OF BIRTH AND BOTH PARENTS WERE BORN IN VIENTIANE, LAOS. SOMBOUN WAS PAID BY BOTH USAID AND LATER BY EMBASSY IN KIP AS LAO EMPLOYEE.

B. EMBASSY (VIENTIANE) UNDERSTANDS THAT SOMBOUN CANNOT BE AUTHORIZED REFUGEE STATUS IF HE IS RECOGNIZED AS THAI CITIZEN AND CAN LEGALLY SETTLE IN THAILAND. IF SOMBOUN'S PARENTS WERE INDEED BOTH LAO, THEN IT WOULD APPEAR DOUBTFUL THAT SOMBOUN WOULD HAVE CLAIM TO THAI CITIZENSHIP, EVEN IF HE WERE BORN IN NONGKHAI.

C. EMBASSY TEMPORARILY WITHDREW ITS AUTHORIZATION FOR SOMBOUN TO USE SPECIAL QUOTA NUMBER. "HOWEVER, BECAUSE SOMBOUN WAS SENIOR, LOYAL LOCAL EMPLOYEE OF THE EMBASSY (VIENTIANE), IF SOMBOUN WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SETTLE LEGALLY IN THAILAND AS A THAI CITIZEN, NUMBER WILL BE REISSUED."

4. POST INTERVIEWS OF SUBJECT REVIEWS THAT SOMBOUN PHOMMAVONG'S PARENTS, BOTH LAO CITIZEN (PRESENTLY DECEASED), WENT FROM LAOS TO NONGKHUI, THAILAND IN 1950 TO WORK ON A TOBACCO PLANTATION. SUBJECT WAS BORN OCTOBER 10, 1953. IN 1960, THE FAMILY MOVED BACK TO VIENTIANE, LAOS, BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT THAI CITIZENS, DID NOT HAVE THAI FAMILY RECORDS AND WERE UNABLE TO ENROLL SUBJECT IN A THAI SCHOOL. IN LAOS, THE PARENTS BEING LAO CITIZENS (BORN IN LAOS), ATTAINED A LAO BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND I.D. CARD FOR SOMBOUN. SUBJECT REMAINED IN LAOS ATTENDING SCHOOL AND WORKING UNTIL HE FLED TO THAILAND JUNE 27, 1976.

5. SINCE JUNE 27, 1976, SUBJECT HAS BEEN LIVING IN A THAI REFUGEE CAMP (EXCEPT FOR 6 DAYS WHEN SUBJECT VISITED CONSULATE OFFICE IN UDORN). SUBJECT DOES NOT HAVE ANY RELATIVES IN THAILAND.

6. POST DOES NOT THINK THAT SUBJECT CAN LEGALLY SETTLE IN THAILAND AS U THAI CITIZEN.

7. POST REQUEST CONCURRENCE FROM ORM AND INS/CO THAT SUBJECT IS A LAO REFUGEE BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THIS "OLD LAO
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PROGRAM" CASE.
FINNEY

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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